

**ABSTRACT**

A telephonic apparatus that minimizes the number of keystrokes required to make a local phone call in an area code overlay region is provided. If a user enters a local phone number into the telephonic apparatus, the telephonic apparatus, in turn, automatically  
5 recalls a stored area code and dials it prior to dialing the local phone number. The recalled area code may be either the base area code or the overlaying area code within the area code overlay region. Thus, a user need only enter a local phone number when attempting to make a local phone call within the area code overlay region, which would otherwise require the user to enter a long distance phone number. If a user, on the other  
10 hand, enters a long distance phone number into the telephonic apparatus, the telephonic apparatus, in turn, dials the long distance phone number in a standard manner.